

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9260

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6866

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN MILI NATO

SUBJ: BURDENSARING: FRANCE UNWILLINGTO CONFIRM ESTIMATES OF
MILITARY PURCHASES IN US

REF: USNATO 5928

1. ON NOVEMBER 11, ECONOMIC DIREOORATE SENT LETTER TO FRENCH
AMBASSADOR TO NATO ASKING FRANCE TO CONFIRM WHETHER IT WOULD
BE REASONABLE FOR THE DIRECTORATE TO ESTIMATE THAT OUT OF TOTAL
ANNUAL US SALES TO FRANCE OF \$2.6 BILLION ABOUT \$200 MILLION
REPRESENTED THE SALE OF MILITARY RELATED ITEMS. FRENCH AM-
BASSADOR'S REPLY STATES THAT SINCE FRANCE IS NOT PARTICIPATING
IN BURDENSARING EXERCISE IN NATO, FRENCH GOVERNMENT CAN
NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY ANY ESTIMATE.

2. ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE, WHICH PLANS TO SEND PROGRESS REPORT
TO NAC JANUARY 10 ON WHICH US CAN DRAW FOR FEBRUARY REPORT TO
CONGRESS, HAS SOUGHT MISSION GUIDANCE ON HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH
FRENCH REPLY. MISSION AND DIRECTORATE AGREE IT WOULD BE UNWISE
TO INCLUDE UNCONFIRMED ESTIMATE OF \$200 MILLION FRENCH
MILITARY PURCHASES IN REPORT SINCE TO DO SO WOULD MAKE MOCKERY
OF WORK DONE BY OTHER ALLIES TO IDENTIFY AND DOCUMENT MILITARY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PURCHASES IN US. RATHER, IN JANUARY 10 REPORT DIRECTORATE
WILL USE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF \$45 MILLION WITH COMMENT THAT
TOTAL SHOULD BE HIGHER IF FIRM-TO-FIRM TRANSACTIONS WERE IN-
CLUDED. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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